



Let's Talk Shop

Together we can make it happen

www.kingsburycommunityshop.co.uk

Issue 5

Feb /Mar 2010

Dear Reader:

Following our AGM at the end of November, when the meeting voted overwhelmingly for the Committee to pursue the proposal that we work towards a new building on the Recreation Ground, we have been working very hard to try and bring this to reality.

We have had four joint meetings with members of the Amenities Committee, who are the leaseholders of the Village Recreation Ground. Having agreed in principle to our proposal that we lease sufficient land from them for our building, we have been working to agree the terms of that lease, which is now in the process of preparation by our respective solicitors. We have applied for Outline Planning Permission, and a decision on this should be with us by mid February.

The Amenities Committee have been working for a long time towards plans for a Sports Pavilion to replace the current portacabins, and, for a time, it seemed that we might be able to bring their requirements, and our requirements, together into one building. However, constraints of the budget set within our Big Lottery application, together with the fact that the requirements of the Amenities Committee had not been a part of that application, meant that it was not possible for us to do this as one project, within the rules of the Big Lottery funding.

At present, the proposal is that our Steering Committee proceed with our Second Stage Lottery bid on the basis of our original proposal i.e. a building housing a shop, café and kitchen, together with a small multi-purpose community room, which would all come under the original proposed budget, and would be owned and run by the Shop Management Committee. The Amenities Committee will proceed with their plans separately, but their part of the building will eventually be joined with ours, making one building housing all the original elements required by both committees. These plans are not yet finalised, and we will update you in our next issue. Some of you will have already seen some of these proposals at our recent Open Events.

This will take some time, but at the end of the process we could have a wonderful community resource which will meet the needs of all our residents of all ages.

We hope this solution meets with the approval of our members. If you have any comments or questions, please don't hesitate to contact us, either by phone, by email (kevillageshop@btinternet.com) or via our website www.kingsburycommunityshop.co.uk)

The Steering Committee

VILLAGE OPEN EVENTS

We wanted to give all local residents a chance to see where we were up to in our discussions with the Amenities Committee with regard to the possibility of bringing their plans, and our proposed project, together in one community building on the Recreation Ground. We also wanted to give everyone a chance to join in and put forward their own comments and suggestions, so we held two Open Events.

The first was on Wednesday evening 20th January, and was held in the lovely new function room at the Rusty Axe - congratulations to Robert & Terry on results of their hard work renovating that room, by the way!

We had a variety of display boards showing information about the various aspects of our Project, and the Amenities Committee's proposals, and we provided lots of post-it notes for people to write their thoughts and suggestions and stick them on the various boards so we could all see what ideas were being put forward.

We had a very pleasant social evening, with 27 people who all joined in enthusiastically, and then on the Saturday morning we took all the boards along to the Church Rooms and did it all over again - with the addition of the opportunity to meet our Village Champion and his wife, who came for the day.

Altogether, 83 people came, ranging from 10 to 91 years of age! They had a good look at the display boards, left their comments and their offers of help, asked questions, chatted with committee members and enjoyed their free tea and cake.

Our thanks to all of you who participated - we will keep all your suggestions in mind, and will be in contact with all who kindly left offers of help, although this may not be in the next few weeks, as we are currently very busy completing our final application to the Village SOS Big Lottery scheme.

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Who's Who on the Kingsbury Community Shop Project

Chairman: John McGruther
Secretary: Carol Mason
Treasurer: Angela Catling
Minutes Secretary: Pauline Warren
Other Committee Members are: Tracey Edwards, Tim Gray, John Hunt, Christine Weymouth and Tony Bishton



*This number is charged at local rate, and may be free evenings and weekends for some BT customers. This is an answerphone only and if you leave a message, someone from the committee will call you back, usually within 24 hours. If you wish to talk to someone directly please call Carol on 01460 242 111. Messages can also be left on our website, www.kingsburycommunityshop.co.uk

Phone: 08456 911 439* or 01460 242 111 or e-mail:committee@kingsburycommunityshop.co.uk



Meet Steve Ansell, our Village Champion, chosen by us not only because of his lovely personality and good looks, but also because he is a very successful businessman, having taken over four failing village shops in his own area, and turned them into highly profitable and successful village enterprises.

Steve and his delightful wife Carolyn live in Meppershall, a small village in Bedfordshire, where he not only runs one of his shops, but is also very active in village life, being the Chairman of the village hall Committee, so well used to running a community building with all that that entails.

His other three shops are in Shillington, Pirton, and Henlow – neighbouring small villages all within a five miles radius. It seems Pirton is the nearest comparison to Kingsbury, being roughly the same population and spread, The three nearest towns of any size are Hitchin (3 miles) Letchworth (5 miles) and Luton (about 8 miles).

If we go through to Stage Two, and are awarded our full grant of well over £300,000, Steve will be paid a salary by the Big Lottery Fund to come and live here for a year, to be our mentor, and to make sure the building is up and running by August 2011. However, he is already working very hard on our behalf, helping to design the building, and assisting with the preparation of our Business Plan.

All Steve's shops have a Post Office facility, so we asked him whether he thought this was an important aspect of his success. He told us that he thought that this was only one of the many contributory factors, but assured us that he was already making preliminary enquiries, and will pursue negotiations to try and bring as many Post Office services as possible for Kingsbury in the future as a matter of priority.

FUTURE FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Saturday 27th February

Punch & Pudding **QUIZ NIGHT** at Kingsbury School
Start time: 7.30pm for 8pm. Teams of 4-6. £5 a head.
Have your Dinner at home and come to us for your just desserts—free glass of punch on entry, pudding in the interval. BAR. Trifling prizes.....

Wednesday 21st April

JAZZ NIGHT with Sam Brown and friends at the Church Rooms. 8pm—11pm. BAR

Monday 3rd May

Back by popular demand—Pasties on the move! Our roving vendors will once again be selling pasties at the Kingsbury May Festival

June, probably 12th

Under Milk Wood—Street Theatre's touring production of Dylan Thomas's classic radio play at the Methodist Chapel

Saturday 6th February

KINGSBURY PRODUCE MARKET in the Church Hall.
10am – 12noon

Come and buy some fabulous home-baked goodies from our stand!

Sales of the books "The Way We Were" and "In Living Memory" on behalf of the History Society, at £5.99 each, continue to go well. £2 from each sale is being donated to our funds. You can find them on our stand at the Produce Market.

Also—TRACEYS FAMOUS LIVER CAKE—
Special treat/Training aid for dogs

MEMBERSHIP

It is not too late to become a member. For details please call Angela on 01935 824 361 or visit our website www.kingsburycommunityshop.co.uk where you can download a form, or e-mail us to request one.

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This includes the preparation of a comprehensive Business Plan, costings for our building and all the necessary equipment, and a five year profit and loss forecast for the shop and café (and it all has to be submitted by the end of February!)

We will hear whether we have gone through to the "Big Six" around mid-May, - so - Fingers crossed!

Good comments on the "Café" board at the Open Events

"Children's teas at approx 4.30 pm to relieve tired Mums of the necessity of cooking" - we'll bear that in mind when the time comes!!!

"Facilities for walkers e.g. dog tie-up area" - Very important for all dog-walkers in need of a coffee and a sit down after their exertions!

And finally to the person who suggested "A children's cooking club" - we are delighted with the idea, and grateful for your offer to help with this, but you forgot to tell us who you are, so can you please contact any member of the committee with your details, please?

WE NOW HAVE POSTERS AND WINDOW/CAR STICKERS PROCLAIMING YOUR SUPPORT FOR THE PROJECT:

Posters free - car stickers 50p each
Available from our stall at Produce Market on the first Saturday of every month.

Our Thanks go to all of our volunteers and especially those who deliver this newsletter to you in all weathers.